

REMARKS

Claims 54-64 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit herewith a certified English translation of the French priority application. Benefit of the filing date of that application is requested.

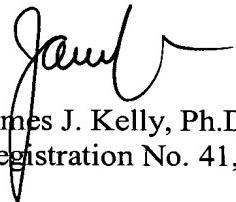
The claims presented herein may define the same patentable invention as U.S. application serial No. 10/022,458. 37 C.F.R. 1.604(b).

Applicants submit that the present application is ready for examination on the merits.

Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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